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# A Warm Partisan's Insight Into CIA

BY HAROLD M. HYMAN

THE REAL CIA by Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr. (Macmillan, \$6.95).

• Fifteen years ago the Central Intelligence Agency was a special target of the Joe McCarthy right; today the CIA attracts the slings and arrows of the new left on college and university campuses. Mere mention of the CIA evokes audible negative responses from students in courses on recent United States history. In extra-classroom situations, similar estimations issue from estimable nonhistorian colleagues. To be sure, a fair share of the latter admit to knowing relatively little about American history in general or the CIA in particular; many undergraduates and pre-doctoral graduate students are less modest.

## Question Persists

Recent events have increased sharply the gloomy view of the CIA. These include the disclosures of hidden CIA support of numerous organizations and associations on and off campuses, the loss of the Pueblo, the crash of a hydrogen-bomb-carrying B-52, and the bloody thrusts into Saigon and other South

Vietnamese centers. The result is that the vigor and venom have grown greater than judgments on the CIA's desirability and efficiency.

With respect to desirability, the question persists whether a central intelligence agency can co-exist with democracy's open ways, especially during a time of uncomfortable global and domestic change. And

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even persons who allow co-existence, and who are not predisposed to sneer at the CIA, worry about its adequacy.

Ever since the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, the question of intelligence adequacy has been a legitimate concern in Washington. That attack exhibited the total inadequacy of uncentralized arrangements, and by a decade later the CIA was in business. Obviously, the Agency has not worked out illusory perfect formulas either to gain foreign information or to win domestic confidence. Witness the floundering when Gary

Powers' U-2 was shot down in Russia and the far more dangerous Bay of Pigs debacle. On history's other hand, American success in the Cuban missile confrontation was made possible in part by adroit CIA employment of other U-2s, and deservedly ranks as a major Agency triumph at home and abroad.

Now Lyman Kirkpatrick's "The Real CIA" offers more and better insight into these and many other matters than was available before. In on the Agency's birth, he rose rapidly to command rank. Now a political scientist at Brown University, Kirkpatrick was able to turn attention to the production of this book, and I am grateful for it. He might have omitted or greatly condensed the chatty first section that tells more of his career than of the CIA's. But thereafter he illuminates usefully many of the Agency's top people and policies.

"The Real CIA" is consistently interesting, frequently convincing, and often disturbing. Readers must keep in mind that Kirkpatrick remains the Agency's warm partisan despite his professorship. This characteristic is

evident as the author castigates the Joe McCarthy "underground," criticizes the pro-Batista coterie in the Washington bureaucracy that helped to build Cubans' Castro-lash, defends the strategy of American support for anti-Castro Cubans who stumbled into the Bay of Pigs, and sustains the need for continuing the CIA independent of the State and Defense departments.

## CIA No Threat

Kirkpatrick insists that the CIA is no threat to political democracy. Men of good will, open mind and honest concern will find much to mull over in this warm, candid, and revealing account. Laymen and academics will want to read "The Real CIA" in order to estimate the validity of their pre-judgments. In addition to learning that intelligence work involves far more library drudgery than James Bond skulduggery, readers will come away from the book with far better insight into the operations of one of the most important agencies of government.